



THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbus – (614) 221-8830

[thallowell@bgccolumbus.org](mailto:thallowell@bgccolumbus.org)

## Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbus Hosts Teen-Led Dialogue with Law Enforcement

**COLUMBUS, OH** (Monday, March 6th, 2017) – Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbus will host a teen-led dialogue in conjunction with Columbus Division of Police.

The first of its kind, this evening event will join 30 youth, 30 law enforcement officials, and 10 Boys & Girls Club staff members to discuss challenges that youth face in the community through a facilitated panel discussion and small breakout groups.

The format will allow participants the opportunity to share interpretations of what an ideal community looks like and action steps that teens and law enforcement can take to build constructive and positive relationships in a safe and respectful environment.

The event will take place at the Milo-Grogan Boys & Girls Club at 1012 Cleveland Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201 from 5:30-7:30PM on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbus recognizes Mayor Andrew Ginther's vision to improve priority neighborhoods as reflected in his "State of the City Address," and strong relations between law enforcement and youth will invite collaboration and community-building.

This event is part of a national effort to improve relations and empower teens to make a difference by offering solutions that establish trust. The dialogue will encourage participants to explore their understandings of justice, the law, and crime in the community.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbus (BGCC) has been providing afterschool and summer programming to underserved youth in Columbus since 1948. An affiliate of Boys & Girls Clubs of America, which serves more than 4 million youth annually throughout the United States, Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbus' mission is to *empower the young people who need us most to realize their potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens.*

The organization's youth development programs focus on three program pillars: 1) Academic Success, 2) Good Character & Citizenship and 3) Healthy Lifestyles and are available to youth ages 6-18. The Clubs are open Monday through Friday from 3pm to 8pm during the school year and from 10am to 5pm during the summer. Youth pay an annual fee of \$5 to join the Club and as Club members have unlimited access to the Club and all activity offerings provided during the program day.